

Lesson B1.5 - Bad Things Happen



Teacher's Pages with Step-by-Step Lesson Plan

For Lower Elementary Students and Classes

Recommended for students in Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-2.

Quick Facts for the Teacher

Lesson Summary: Exodus 9:13-26

► Bible Characters: Moses, Israelites, Pharaoh

Through Moses, God had sent the message to the Pharaoh to set his people free from slavery. Moses explained that a huge hailstorm would come if he didn't listen, but Pharaoh ignored this warning. When the storm struck, Pharaoh learned that God, and not himself, was ultimately in charge.

Brief Bible Background

► Today's Lesson is from the Old Testament

► Scripture Section: Exodus

When the Hebrews were slaves to the Pharaoh in Egypt, God chose Moses to lead his people out of bondage. It took many plagues before Pharaoh was willing to let God's people go.

For More Information

The primary role of a Sunday School teacher for Preschool, Kindergarten (pre-readers), and Early Elementary (new readers) is to simply tell children the stories of Scripture and introduce them to the major characters of the Bible.

Teachers who want to know more about the lessons for their own familiarity with the story are encouraged to read the information in the SEED Upper Elementary and Youth Teacher's Pages.

a. Classroom Greeting

Teachers should arrive 10 to 15 minutes before class and greet students and parents by name. Write the day's Bible Message on the white board or poster board for all the kids to see. Have kids gather on a rug or in a dedicated meeting space. Encourage the children to learn each other's names.

b. Opening Prayer Song

This same opening prayer song should be sung every week with young kids — remember, repetition is good. The words to this song are sung to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb." No accompaniment needed.

*Thank you, Jesus, for this day, for this day, for this day.
Thank you, Jesus, for this day and everything you do.*

*Help us as we learn and pray, learn and pray, learn and pray.
Help us as we learn and pray and turn our hearts to you!*

c. Introduction to Today's Message

*Teacher's Script (student responses are in **bold**).*

Everyone has hard days, even hard weeks. We all know that sometimes, **Bad Things Happen**. Say that with me: Sometimes, **Bad Things Happen**. But what should we do when **Bad Things Happen**? Should we act badly ourselves, or turn to God for help?

- Raise your hand if you have ever had a really bad day.
- How did God take care of you and get you through it? *(Choose a child to answer.)*

When God's people were slaves, they had lots of hard days when they saw many **Bad Things Happen**! But they prayed to God, and he helped them. Pharaoh, however, did not care what God said or did. How did that work out for him? Let's get started and find out.

d. SEED Bible Story Video

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This may be displayed simply on a laptop computer or tablet. If the classroom is equipped with a computer video monitor or video projector, the video can be displayed in a larger size.

e. Read the Story with Poster Pictures

The Bible Story has been divided into four parts, each with an accompanying Poster Picture. The teacher should hold up or point to the relevant Poster Picture while reading the individual part of the story, asking questions while reading. Posters may be printed on letter-sized paper, or enlarged and printed on ledger-sized paper if a bigger printer is available. Poster pictures may also be opened as a PDF on a computer screen, scrolling through each of the four pages.



Picture 1

Tell the children: Many years ago, God's people were working as slaves in Egypt. But God wanted them to be free! God had sent Moses and his brother Aaron to speak to Pharaoh, but he had not listened. As a result, many plagues had come upon Egypt.

Read the caption: Moses said to Pharaoh, "Let my people go! If you keep them as slaves, bad things will happen. God wants his people to be free!"

- *Look at the picture. Point out Moses, Pharaoh, and the slave. What is Pharaoh doing as Moses speaks? [He is frowning with his arms folded closed.]*
- *Why do you think Pharaoh looks like that? [He doesn't like what Moses is saying.]*



Picture 2

Tell the children: Pharaoh continued to ignore Moses' warnings. He felt very important and did not want to let God's people go. They were doing all sorts of work for him! Pharaoh felt like he owned them. But he did not.

Read the caption: "Pharaoh," Moses said, "if you don't listen, a big storm will teach you a lesson." But Pharaoh didn't care what God wanted.

- *Point out God's people in this picture. What are they doing? [They are building a pyramid and other things outside, and are working very hard.]*
- *How do you think Moses felt about warning Pharaoh again? [Angry, scared]*



Picture 3

Tell the children: Some of Pharaoh's servants feared God. They believed Moses and got ready for the giant storm. But not Pharaoh. He kept being stubborn.

Read the caption: Moses lifted his staff up to heaven. Loud thunder rumbled. Heavy balls of hail began to fall. Lights of fire flashed in the sky.

- *Point out the hail in the picture. Who can tell me what hail is? [Hard balls of ice that come from very big thunderstorm clouds.]*
- *What would you have done if you heard Moses' warnings? [Believed him and brought in anything that was outside: pets, plants, furniture]*



Picture 4

Tell the children: The hail knocked down everything that was outside — crops, plants, trees, animals, even people. It was a storm to beat all storms.

Read the caption: The hail fell everywhere, except for one place. Where God's people lived, no hail fell at all.

- *What is different about this picture? [Things are growing, the couple is smiling. These are people who listen to God, and they live in a place called Goshen.]*
- *What did Pharaoh do wrong in this story? [He wouldn't listen to God. He thought he could own people and use them for his own reasons. God doesn't like that.]*

Remember today's message: **Bad Things Happen.**

f. Bible Story Rhyme (optional)

The Bible Story Rhyme below is the same one found on the Upper Elementary Student sheet. The teacher can read the beginning of the line and see if the children can finish the last rhyming word of the phrase.

*When Pharaoh ruled in Egypt land,
he worked his slaves with heavy hand.
God sent Moses with the plea
to let them go and set them free.*

*When Pharaoh would not let them go,
God then let his power show.
He sent many signs and plagues.
God was sure to have his way.*

*After locusts, frogs, and flies,
fiery hail made plants all die.
Though all Egypt was laid waste,
God kept his own people safe!*

g. Young Children's Activity (optional)

Simple in-class crafts or activities may be completed by the children if there is time left at the end of class. (*Note: For the youngest children, simply providing crayons and letting them complete the Coloring Page may serve as the "craft" for the day.*)

Hail Storm!

In today's story, a huge hail storm knocked over plants, animals, buildings, etc. For this activity, kids will make their own "hail," and will be challenged to knock over items too.



Materials Needed: White copy paper, non-breakable items to "knock over" such as cereal boxes, cardboard tubes, empty water bottles, etc.

Instructions: Give each child three pieces of white copy paper, and have them crumple it up into a tight ball. These are their pieces of "hail." Meanwhile, set up the cereal boxes or other items on a table or the floor.

Do this activity in two parts: First, let kids practice by letting them go one at a time and seeing how many items they can knock over with their three pieces of hail.

After everyone has done this, set up the boxes and other items again. Invite the kids to stand in a circle, around the items. When you say, "Hail storm!" all kids will throw their paper balls and see if they can collectively knock everything down in one giant "storm" of hail!

h. Song (optional)

You can listen to this African American spiritual on YouTube, Vimeo, or online children's music sites. It can be fun to sing this as a call and response, with you singing the first and third line, and kids responding with "Let my people go."

When Israel Was in Egypt's Land

When Israel was in Egypt's land,

Let my people go,

oppressed so hard they could not stand,

Let my people go.

Refrain:

Go down, Moses, way down in Egypt's land,

Tell old Pharaoh: *Let my people go!*

i. Story Review: Then What Happened?

Then What Happened is a learning game that helps kids retell the story and remember the flow of events. The teacher reads the starting sentence and then chooses a student to continue the story. There are two rules: each student may only add one sentence or say one new thing, and events in the story need to be in the right order.

► **Start: Long ago, God's people were slaves in Egypt. But God wanted them to be free! Then what happened?**

If the younger kids have trouble, cut a Take-Home Page into four pieces (with no words) and let the kids put the illustrations in order while they tell the story.

j. Closing Prayer

Send the children home with the Take-Home Page, and tell them to ask their parents to read the story to them again (or, perhaps, they can read it to their parents).

End class with this closing prayer, repeated each week for memorization.

For all our friends, and family too,

Please bless them, Lord, in all they do.

Thank you for helping us today

So we could learn and grow and play.

Be with us as we leave again.

And bring us back next time. Amen.